

To: Walls, Beth[Walls.Beth@epa.gov]; Robbins, Heather M.[RobbinsHM@scdot.org]; Laycock, Kelly[Laycock.Kelly@epa.gov]; James.F.Choate@usace.army.mil[James.F.Choate@usace.army.mil]; Travis Hughes (Travis.G.Hughes@usace.army.mil)[Travis.G.Hughes@usace.army.mil]
Cc: Ikerd, Stephen (FHWA)[Stephen.Ikerd@dot.gov]; Belcher, Jeffrey (FHWA)[Jeffrey.Belcher@dot.gov]
From: Herrell, Michelle (FHWA)
Sent: Thur 9/1/2016 1:52:21 PM
Subject: RE: SCDOT and FHWA Projects in NEPA Phase in South Carolina - I-73 alternatives update inquiry

Hi Everyone,

Thanks again for getting together on Monday to discuss the I-73 project. Just to follow up and close the loop on this email, I just wanted to summarize what we talked about on the call.

- The FHWA and SCDOT are currently conducting re-evaluations for both I-73 North and South on the selected alternative in the Records of Decision, in accordance with FHWA regulations found in 23 CFR 771. The re-evaluations are not NEPA decision documents, thus no public/agency comment period will occur.
- FHWA issued final decision documents (RODs) on the project in 2008 and view the alternatives analysis as a completed process as NEPA decisions was made. There has been no change to the purpose and need, no major design changes, and no major development or land use changes that have occurred in the project area since the issuance of the RODs. Therefore, the alternatives analysis will not be updated as part of the re-evaluations.
- The Smart Mobility study and the concerns regarding the use of existing corridors in the March 28, 2011 letter from EPA to USACE were addressed in the I-73 Feasibility Study as well as the I-73 EISs. (Note: This issue was discussed in a meeting subsequent to the March 2011 letter, and as Kelly mentioned, EPA sent an email in May 2011 stated that the use of existing corridors was no longer of concern.)
- The SCDOT and FHWA are working with the USACE to ensure that the concerns raised during the 404 process by USACE and the public are addressed in the re-evaluations.
- The Re-evaluations are expected to be completed by the end of 2016.
- A supplemental NEPA document would only be done if, based on the re-evaluations, new information or circumstances relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts would result in significant impacts not evaluated in the original EISs.

If you have any other questions regarding this project (or any other projects on the original list I sent to EPA in July 2016), please feel free to contact us.

Thanks, and stay safe in the impending weather.

Michelle Herrell

Environmental Protection Specialist

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From: Walls, Beth [mailto:Walls.Beth@epa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, August 04, 2016 4:57 PM

To: Herrell, Michelle (FHWA)

Cc: Robbins, Heather M.; Laycock, Kelly; Militscher, Chris

Subject: SCDOT and FHWA Projects in NEPA Phase in South Carolina - I-73 alternatives update inquiry

Hi Michelle

During EPA's initial review of the I-73 in 2011, we had expressed concerns about the age of the alternatives analysis which right now is bordering 10 years old. We requested the alternative analysis be updated. The helpful chart you sent me earlier indicates the NEPA-reevaluations for the two EIS completed for this project is anticipated to be completed in early winter of this year. Will the reevaluation result in a supplemental EIS?

We've been in communication with the COE regarding the 404 permitting for this project. The COE has expressed an interest in having the NEPA & 404 processes combined. But the 404 process has started and is way ahead of the NEPA.

Can you share what has been done regarding updating the alternatives analysis? And if the COE is interested in the NEPA & 404 processes combined, why is the 404 process moving now as opposed to when the reevaluation has been completed. Should we request an updated alternatives analysis pursuant to the 404 process or is it being address in the NEPA process? Please advise.

Many thanks

BTW – I've been going through the SC DOT projects on the chart you provided me earlier and have been able to find a lot of helpful information on the Internet to explain these projects. I may be following up with a few project-specific questions at some future date.

Beth Walls

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404-562-8309

From: Herrell, Michelle (FHWA) [<mailto:michelle.herrell@dot.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 8:52 AM
To: Walls, Beth <Walls.Beth@epa.gov>
Cc: Robbins, Heather M. <RobbinsHM@scdot.org>
Subject: SCDOT and FHWA Projects in NEPA Phase in South Carolina

Hi Beth,

Attached is a spreadsheet with brief descriptions of the active large EAs and all the EISs that FHWA and SCDOT are working on in South Carolina. I also have attached a pdf of maps of each project, which are in order of the projects on the spreadsheet.

If you would like to set up a conference call sometime to go through any of these projects, please let us know.

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